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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
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Page 1 of 3

Attachment to Z-15775/82

NPIC/IEG

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16 JULY 1982

ARMORED VEHICLE PRODUCTION STOPS AT GORKIY
GORKIY MOTOR VEHICLE PLANT GAZ, USSR

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: ARMORED VEHICLE PRODUCTION HAS CEASED AT GORKIY MOTOR VEHICLE PLANT GAZ.
2. (S/D) REMARKS: NO EVIDENCE OF ARMORED VEHICLE PRODUCTION WAS OBSERVED AT THE GORKIY MOTOR VEHICLE PLANT GAZ. THIS PLANT HAD SERIES PRODUCED THE BTR-70 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER (APC) AND THE BRDM-2 AMPHIBIOUS ARMORED RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE (AARV). IT ALSO BUILDS A VARIETY OF TRUCKS AND AUTOMOBILES WHICH ARE STORED IN A SHIPPING YARD SEPARATE FROM THE MILITARY SHIPPING YARD. IN ADDITION TO THE LACK OF ARMORED VEHICLE SIGHTINGS, SEVERAL RECENT DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST THAT THE HALT IN BRDM-2 AND BTR-70 PRODUCTION IS PERMANENT.

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(S/D) BTR-70 PRODUCTION APPARENTLY ENDED IN APRIL 1981 (NPIC IAC 327 ITEM 1) SINCE THEN NO BTR-70 HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN THE MILITARY SHIPPING YARD. WHILE BRDM-2 PRODUCTION CONTINUED AT A HIGH RATE, IT WAS PROBABLY A LAST SURGE PRIOR TO CESSATION OF PRODUCTION. AT LEAST 100 BRDM-2 WERE AT THE MILITARY SHIPPING YARD. BRDM-2 PRODUCTION CEASED BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY. NO BRDM-2 WERE IN THE MILITARY SHIPPING YARD AND IT WAS OCCUPIED BY AT LEAST 200 GAZ-66 TRUCKS. TRUCKS WERE PREVIOUSLY STORED IN SEPARATE SHIPPING YARDS AND HAVE NEVER BEEN SEEN IN THE MILITARY SHIPPING YARD.

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(S/D) PRIOR TO APRIL, NUMEROUS UNFINISHED BRDM-2 CHASSIS AND TURRETS AND TO A LESSER EXTENT BTR-70 CHASSIS AND TURRETS WERE STORED IN SEVERAL PLACES AT THE MILITARY PRODUCTION AREA. ON AT LEAST 145 BRDM-2 CHASSIS WERE PRESENT IN THIS AREA. ALL OF THESE CHASSIS AND TURRETS WERE GONE EXCEPT FOR A FEW DERELICTS. THE REMOVAL OF THE BRDM-2 CHASSIS FROM OPEN STORAGE IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THE RECENT SURGE IN BRDM-2 PRODUCTION PRIOR TO CESSATION OF PRODUCTION.

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Page 2 of 3Attachment to Z-15775/82
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16 JULY 1982

(S/D) THE LACK OF ARMORED VEHICLES IN THE MILITARY SHIPPING YARD, THE CONVERSION OF THE MILITARY SHIPPING YARD TO A STORAGE YARD FOR TRUCKS, AND THE REMOVAL OF ALL EVIDENCE OF BRDM-2 AND BTR-70 COMPONENTS IN THE MILITARY PRODUCTION AREA INDICATES THAT ARMORED VEHICLE PRODUCTION HAS CEASED.

(S/D) ANALYST'S COMMENTS - THE BRDM-2 HAS BEEN IN PRODUCTION SINCE 1959. PRODUCTION PROBABLY CEASED BECAUSE NEWER VEHICLES WITH BETTER CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN DESIGNED AND PRODUCED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE SA-13 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM (SAM) ON AN MT-LB CHASSIS IS REPLACING THE SA-9 SAM (BRDM CHASSIS) IN THE SOVIET SELF-PROPELLED ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILE BATTERY; THE BMP M-1976 IS REPLACING THE BRDM-2 IN THE SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION; AND THE ATV M-1979/4 ON AN MT-LB CHASSIS IS REPLACING THE BRDM-2 RKH IN THE SOVIET CHEMICAL DEFENSE BATTALION. ANY FUTURE SOVIET NEED FOR A VEHICLE SIMILAR TO THE BRDM-2 COULD BE MET BY PURCHASING THE HUNGARIAN PRODUCED PSZH D-944, AN ARMORED VEHICLE ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE BRDM-2.

(S/D) THE REASON FOR THE CESSATION OF BTR-70 PRODUCTION IS LESS CLEAR. THIS VEHICLE, AN IMPROVED VERSION OF THE BTR-60BP APC, HAS ONLY BEEN IN PRODUCTION SINCE 1975 AND ONLY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS IT BEEN WIDELY DEPLOYED. HOWEVER, ROMANIA RECEIVED A SOVIET LICENSE IN 1976 TO PRODUCE THE BTR-70 WITH THE STIPULATION THAT LARGE NUMBERS WOULD BE EXPORTED TO THE SOVIET UNION. IN 1981, BTR-70 PRODUCTION WAS INITIALLY CONFIRMED AT THE MORENI ARMORED VEHICLE PLANT [REDACTED] IN ROMANIA. THEREFORE, BTR-70 DELIVERIES FROM MORENI MAY SATISFY SOVIET REQUIREMENTS OR ANOTHER SOVIET PLANT COULD BE INVOLVED IN BTR-70 PRODUCTION. BTR-60PB PRODUCTION WAS HALTED IN AUGUST 1981 AT KURGAN ARMORED VEHICLE PLANT NO 1

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[REDACTED] AFTER HAVING BEEN IN SERIES PRODUCTION FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. ARMORED VEHICLE PRODUCTION RESUMED IN MAY 1982 WHEN BTR-60-TYPE VEHICLES WERE AGAIN SEEN. IT IS POSSIBLE DURING THIS NINE MONTH HALT OF APC PRODUCTION AT KURGAN A RETOOLING FOR BTR-70 PRODUCTION TOOK PLACE.

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Attachment to Z-15775/82

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(S/D) THE EVENTUAL PRODUCTION OF A NEW ARMORED VEHICLE AT GORKIY GAZ MAY ALSO BE A POSSIBILITY. IF PRODUCTION OF A NEW ARMORED VEHICLE IS PLANNED, RETOOLING AT THE ARMORED VEHICLE PRODUCTION AREA OF THE PLANT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST A YEAR. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED], COORDINATES 56-14-53N 043-53-42E.

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4. (S/D) COLLATERAL REFERENCES; DIA, WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY, ROMANIA PRODUCES NEW ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS 3 JULY 1981 (S/WNINTEL [REDACTED] (EXTRACTED MATERIAL IS CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL)

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